Black Berry Phones

2651. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Home Affairs Ministry has urged the Department of Telecom on use of Black Berry phones, a product of Canadian firm 'Research in Motion' due to security reasons;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to ban the use of Black Berry services in India or propose to look into its security aspects as nation's security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Sir, based on inputs received from Union Home Affairs Ministry, instructions have been issued to all mobile service providers, *inter-alia,* asking them not to connect or provide/ run certain Black Berry services unless the required monitoring systems are in place. The Department of Telecommunications has also held meetings with mobile service providers, the Black Berry Vendor—"Research In Motion (RIM)" and other stake holders to resolve the issue.

Issuance of 3G licenses

2652. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up any plan for the issue of 3G licenses to the telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to auction 3G licenses to the telecom operators; and

(d) if so, the amount likely to be collected by Government by auctioning of 3G Spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government has announced broad guidelines for 3G services, which would be permitted in the 2.1 GHz band and the licences would be granted, through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, to the successful bidders. The amount available to the Government through these auctions can not be indicated at this stage. In addition to the amount collected by the Government through auction, the operators pay annual spectrum charges based on their Adjusted Gross Revenue.

Subsidy to Gujarat State owned company

2653. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Alcock Ashdown Gujarat Ltd. (AAGL), a Gujarat State owned company, is entitled for in-principle approval for subsidy of Rs. 96.26 crore under subsidy scheme for export projects of the Central Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that approval has been given only for Rs. 8.03 crore;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the approval of remaining amount of Rs. 88.23 crore would be given;

(d) whether it is also a fact that even the principally approved subsidy amount of Rs. 7.73 crore has not been released to AAGL; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be released?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The amount of subsidy receivable by Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited based on stage payments works out to a total of Rs. 773,34,088 and this amount has already been released in favour of Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited as claimed by the Shipyard. In addition, applications for in principle approval for grant of subsidy amounting to Rs. 86.00 crores (approximately) were received in the Ministry and were being processed, but in principle approval could not be granted before expiry of the scheme due to want of necessary clarifications, documents etc. from Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited. The shipbuilding subsidy scheme expired on 14th August, 2007. There is a proposal for modified shipbuilding subsidy scheme which is under inter-ministerial consultations and examination.

Closure of Post Offices

2654. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post Offices have been closed in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Circle/State-wise break up of post offices closed throughout the country from 01.04.2002 is given in the Statement. *(See* below).

(c) Closure of post offices is sometimes resorted to in very rare and unavoidable circumstances, e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of buildings and availability of other post offices in close proximity.

Statement

State/Circle-wise number of Post Offices closed in the country from 1.4.02

SI. No.	Circles	No. of PO closed
1	Andhra Pradesh	6
2	Assam	2
3	Bihar	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	Nil